



# Sam Brownback

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## News Release

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### ***-BREAKING NEWS-***

## **BROWNBACK PLEASED WITH FCC DECISION TO RESCIND RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING ORDER**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback today said he is pleased the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has rescinded a decision on programming requirements for non-commercial educational broadcast licenses that would have had a major effect on religious broadcasters.

“I am extremely pleased that the FCC has rescinded the additional guidelines that accompanied the WQED/Cornerstone license transfer,” Brownback said. “These guidelines represented a significant departure in Commission policy concerning the programming requirements for non-commercial educational television broadcast licenses.

“The guidelines would have significantly curtailed the type of religious programming that could be broadcast on non-commercial stations. To attempt to make such a dramatic change in FCC policy in the context of a license transfer is simply inexcusable. The FCC should not be engaging in this type of content-based regulation at all. But the Commission certainly should not have sought to make such a change outside of the proper regulatory process.

“I cannot help but think that the legislation I introduced in the Senate on behalf of a dozen of my colleagues and that Congressman Oxley introduced in the House on behalf of 50 of his colleagues forced the FCC's hand in this case. I can assure you that we in Congress will remain vigilant in protecting the rights of religious broadcasters to remain free of the type of content-based regulation approved by the FCC in the guidelines,” Brownback said.

Sen. Brownback had introduced The Non-Commercial Broadcast Freedom Act of 2000 (S. 2010), a bill that would have rescinded the guidelines dealing with content of religious programming on religious broadcast television stations.

Co-sponsors include Senators Lott, Nickles, Craig, Ashcroft, Santorum, Shelby, Enzi, Inhofe, Bob Smith, and Tim Hutchinson.

The FCC announced their decision to rescind their position late this afternoon.